

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 24, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks, have amended claims, have canceled a claim, and have added new claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-18 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claim 18 has been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claim and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Claims 19-21 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 and 19-21 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-15 have been allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112(b), Second Paragraph

Claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(b), second paragraph, due to minor claiming informalities. Applicants have cured these informalities. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112(b), second paragraph, should be withdrawn. Thus, claims 16-17 should now be in allowable condition.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 19-21 have been added and are believed to be in allowable condition. Claim 19 depends from claim 1. Claim 20 depends from claim 8. Claim 21 depends from claim 15. Support for claims 19-21 is provided within the Specification, for example, on page 15, lines 1-8. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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